

## Message

**From:** Bassler, Rachel [Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/5/2017 10:45:32 PM  
**To:** Saric, James [saric.james@epa.gov]; Russell, Diane [russell.diane@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Ruesch, Paul [ruesch.paul@epa.gov]; Berkoff, Michael [berkoff.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

HQ just approved these responses. I will send to the reporter today.

**I have reviewed several documents on the EPA website, so I think I have a decent idea of what the alternative chosen in October entails. However, I haven't found anything about a timeline of the project. I would like to know what the general schedule of clean up efforts looks like.**

It's difficult to provide a timeline, as EPA does not yet have an agreement with the responsible parties to conduct the work.

**Specifically, in 2018 what efforts are being taken and when?**

Work in 2018 will focus on getting the responsible parties to sign an agreement to conduct the remedial work specified in the Area 2 record of decision.

**Does the project begin with excavation and capping of anabranches before the Otsego City Dam is removed? When does bank realignment and excavation of Gun River and Knife Blade Island begin?**

The details and sequencing of the remedial activities will be decided when the remedial design is being developed. The remedial design will not begin until 2019.

**I'm also seeking some data on the extent of PCB contamination in soil and in fish/wildlife sampled in Area 2.**

The sampling data is available in the Area 2 Supplemental Remedial Investigation report and is viewable by searching the documents on the website.

Rachel Bassler  
 Press Officer  
 U.S. EPA Region 5  
 bassler.rachel@epa.gov  
 p: 312-886-7159  
 c: 312-914-3393

---

**From:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Sent:** Friday, December 01, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Saric, James <saric.james@epa.gov>; Russell, Diane <russell.diane@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Berkoff, Michael <berkoff.michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

Thanks Jim. These are with HQ for review.

Thanks,  
 Rachel

Rachel Bassler  
 Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5  
 bassler.rachel@epa.gov  
 p: 312-886-7159  
 c: 312-914-3393

---

**From:** Saric, James  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 30, 2017 2:06 PM  
**To:** Russell, Diane <[russell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:russell.diane@epa.gov)>; Bassler, Rachel <[Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov](mailto:Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ruesch, Paul <[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)>; Berkoff, Michael <[berkoff.michael@epa.gov](mailto:berkoff.michael@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

Rachel,

I have provided answers below.

thanks  
 Jim Saric

---

**From:** Russell, Diane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Cc:** Saric, James; Ruesch, Paul; Berkoff, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

Jim – did you want to tackle this one?  
 Thanks!  
 -Diane

---

**From:** Bassler, Rachel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** Russell, Diane <[russell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:russell.diane@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Saric, James <[saric.james@epa.gov](mailto:saric.james@epa.gov)>; Ruesch, Paul <[ruesch.paul@epa.gov](mailto:ruesch.paul@epa.gov)>; Berkoff, Michael <[berkoff.michael@epa.gov](mailto:berkoff.michael@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

Here's what the reporter sent. Can we answer these questions (in writing) or do we need more information?

**From the reporter:**

I have reviewed several documents on the EPA website, so I think I have a decent idea of what the alternative chosen in October entails. However, I haven't found anything about a timeline of the project. I would like to know what the general schedule of clean up efforts looks like.

**It's difficult to provide a timeline, as we do not yet have an agreement with the responsible parties to conduct the work. I don't anticipate any physical work occurring in Area 2 until 2021.**

Specifically, in 2018 what efforts are being taken and when?

**Work in 2018 will be focused on getting the responsible Parties to sign an agreement to conduct the remedial work specified in the Area 2 ROD.**

Does the project begin with excavation and capping of anabranches before the Otsego City Dam is removed?  
When does bank realignment and excavation of Gun River and Knife Blade Island begin?

**The details and sequencing of the remedial activities will be decided when the Remedial Design is being developed. The remedial design will not begin until 2019.**

I'm also seeking some data on the extent of PCB contamination in soil and in fish/wildlife sampled in Area 2.  
**The sampling data is available in the Area 2 Supplemental Remedial Investigation report and is viewable by searching the documents on the Website.**

I do not have a hard deadline at this point. I would like to have interviews completed before the week of Dec. 18.

Rachel Bassler  
Press Officer  
U.S. EPA Region 5  
bassler.rachel@epa.gov  
p: 312-886-7159  
c: 312-914-3393

---

**From:** Russell, Diane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 1:03 PM  
**To:** Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Saric, James <saric.james@epa.gov>; Ruesch, Paul <ruesch.paul@epa.gov>; Berkoff, Michael <berkoff.michael@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

FYI – Mlive press inquiry ☺

---

**From:** Malachi Barrett [<mailto:MBARRET1@mlive.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017 1:59 PM  
**To:** Russell, Diane <[russell.diane@epa.gov](mailto:russell.diane@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** MLIVE INQUIRY -- Kalamazoo River Cleanup

Hello,

I am a reporter working for MLive in Kalamazoo who is interested in learning more about the EPA's five-year \$46 million plan to clean up the Kalamazoo River. I was hoping to see a more detailed breakdown of the plan's timeline and specifically see what is planned in 2018 as the new year approaches.

Would you be available to speak with me about this sometime next week or direct me toward someone qualified? I have reviewed some documents from before the plan was approved in October, but I would like to become more familiar with the future of this project.

Thank you very much.

**Malachi Barrett**  
Kalamazoo Gazette  
[mbarret1@mlive.com](mailto:mbarret1@mlive.com)  
Work: (269) 366-7005

Cell: (269) 339-8374